

A GREAT TELEGRAPH LINE.

FROM LONDON TO PERSIA AND
BACK IN A SECOND.Something About the Lines of the
Great Northern and Eastern
Telegraph Companies.

Russia had finished the land line across Siberia—the line which, it will be remembered, was intended to be part of the route so long projected into the United States by Bering Strait. But the American end of the project had failed, and Russia found she had an interminable stretch of line across her barren steppes, and now had nothing to attach the end to. In fault of anything better to do with the straggling terminus, it was carried to Vladivostok. The Northern Telegraph Company of Denmark saw the possibility of utilizing this end for a European communication with China and Japan. Not that China and Japan had expressed a desire for such a union.

The wily Danes took care not to ask permission, but slipped the land end of their cables into shore in inoffensive drain-pipes, and quietly made their connections until they had a cable running from Hongkong to Amoy, Gutzlaff, Woo-Sung, Nagasaki (Japan), and connecting with the land line at Vladivostok. When the Chinese wakened up to the presence of the cable, it was too late to object. They simply professed themselves utterly sceptical of its usefulness, and refused to have anything to do with it. However, they soon had a practical demonstration of its capabilities. An Oriental more bold than his compatriots resolved to act on the price of rice telegraphed down to Shanghai from Peking, and to buy up a quantity. He did so, and made a big sum. Soon after, a lottery drawing came off in Peking, in which many residents of Shanghai were interested. The lucky numbers were telegraphed down, but the majority of the holders felt it unorthodox to trust to the impious Western contrivance which disclaimed time and space, two things which the Imperial Dragon himself had always respected, and they let their scepticism go so far that they sold their tickets for a song to more progressive gamblers. The next week, when the recognized post arrived, the report of the telegraph was confirmed. The new contrivance could not have had a more impressive advertisement.

The Great Northern Company, in venturing into Chinese waters to pick up the useless end of the Russian landline at Vladivostok, left a floating end at Hongkong, but immediately another daring company came on to meet it. The year before, 1870, the famous Eastern Telegraph Company, the cable company which today possesses nearly twice as many miles of cable as any other in the world, had laid its lines from Land's End to Gibraltar, thence to Malta, and on to Alexandria. It had also laid a line from Aden to Bombay. On the other side of the Indian peninsula, the Eastern Telegraph Company, today the second largest in the world, had picked up the end laid down at Bombay, and had run a cable from Madras to Penang, and from Penang to Singapore. When, the next year, the Great Northern appeared in Chinese waters, it was an easy matter to run up to Hongkong to meet it, and thus was furnished the last link in the tremendous circle which, beginning in England, crosses the north of Europe and Asia, passes down the eastern seas of Asia, and through the Gulf of Bombay, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, and the east Atlantic, back to England.

Mr. Muir tells an incident that pertains to a large portion of this

FITS CURED

(From U. S. Journal of Medicine.)
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There are 98,000 Fischer Pianos in use. In order to fully appreciate this marvelous fact it is only necessary to know that an ordinary piano manufacturer may point proudly to a record of 10,000 pianos sold. It is a wonderful—an unparalleled popular indorsement—this record of 98,000!

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When a piano is not being played upon it is in use nevertheless. If you doubt this statement attempt to completely furnish your parlor without a piano, and note the result. Then every acquaintance naturally associates you with your piano. Let it be one that you may well be proud of. If it is a Fischer Piano, you can feel that it is beyond criticism—its reputation is more than local—the Fischer is known North, South, East, West, and in every land.

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Purchasers of the Fischer Pianos are enabled to obtain a first-class instrument on easy payments if they so desire. Every piano is fully warranted. Our spacious warerooms afford visitors an unique opportunity to make a proper selection. Illustrated catalogues (free) upon application.

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Killer and be
ready to attack
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